

You further state that Inspector McLaughlin has lately performed this service, and transmit his report to this office, dated June 13, 1899, together with all the accompanying papers; that after a careful examination of the country and considering the interests of both the Indians and the white inhabitants thereof, he recommends that the reservation be enlarged by extending the lines from the southwest corner of the Moqui Reservation due west to the Little Colorado River, thence down that stream to the Grand Canyon Reserve, thence north on the line of that reserve to the northeast corner thereof, thence west to the Colorado River, thence up that stream to the Navajo Reservation.

You transmit his said report to this office for consideration and direct, if the recommendations of the inspector meet with my approval, that I prepare and submit to the Department, at the earliest convenience, a draft of the proper Executive order to carry the same into effect as to the enlargement of the reservation, and at the proper time submit a draft of the necessary legislation to authorize and enable the Department to purchase the improvements and claims of the settlers to be included in the proposed extension of the Navajo Reservation.

The inspector states in his said report that he arrived at Flagstaff, Ariz., on May 8, 1899, en route to Tuba City, to carry out the instructions of this office, dated January 25 last, and approved by the Department, relative to certain land matters and water privileges at Moencopie; that he had in view the report called for regarding the extension of the Navajo Reservation; that from his visit last summer to that section of country he learned something of the opposition of the settlers of Coconino County, Ariz., to a southern extension of the reservation, as set forth in a report submitted by him under date of August 15, 1898, and that he therefore concluded to remain over in Flagstaff one day in order that he might ascertain the sentiment now prevailing as to the extension of the Navajo Reservation by extending the lines in the manner first above indicated.

He states that he met a number of the business men, including several stockmen of said county, while in Flagstaff, and found them all very much opposed to an extension of the reservation by having the southern boundary extended as first above proposed, as such line would include what is known as Coconino Basin, which is regarded as the best winter range for stock in said county; that Coconino Basin is appropriated by Coconino County stockmen as the winter range for stock held in the mountains during the summer, which mountains, owing to deep snow in the higher altitudes, have to be abandoned in the winter and the herds ranged in the lower country; that after ascertaining the sentiment of the citizens of Flagstaff and its vicinity regarding said extension of the Navajo Reservation, he proceeded to Tuba City, a distance of 100 miles by the road he traveled; that he was two days in making this trip by team, which route was by way of Tanner Crossing of the Little Colorado, Willow Springs, and Moen Ava; that he was at Tuba City and vicinity twenty-two days, during which time he traveled over considerable of the country lying southwest and west of the Moqui Reservation; that he also made a trip from Tuba City to Oraibi Mesa, by way of the Togas Jay Wash, Blue Canyon, and Denebato Wash, a distance of 60 miles, about one-third of which route was outside of the reservation; that by this trip and his return of 90 miles by Tuba City to Flagstaff, traveling different routes, he was enabled to see much of the reservation and the character of country bordering upon it; that it is chiefly light sandy soil, subject to drifting with every high wind that blows; that the country did not impress him favorably; that during the entire time he was at Tuba City and in the vicinity thereof there was almost one continuous sand storm, by reason of which fact his earlier impressions of the country were not changed.

Further, the inspector states the present season has been unusually dry, there having been no rains of any consequence in the Little Colorado country for several months past; that the result of this is that water is very scarce and grazing exceedingly poor throughout the entire tract of country over which he traveled; that grass is at all times very scarce in this sandy desert; that long drought has dried up the roots to such an extent that a green blade is rarely seen, and that were it not for the grease wood, sagebrush, and other shrubs upon which the cattle and sheep subsist there would be great loss of stock from the barrenness of the ranges caused by the protracted drought.

He states that there is no question that the present reservation of the Navajo and Moqui Indians is insufficient for the Navajo herds; that in consequence of this fact a large number of Navajos are frequently off their reservation upon the public domain, ranging their herds as far south as the Santa Fe Railroad, in portions of Coconino and Navajo counties, which causes contentions over ranges, as the untaxed herds of the Indians eat off the grass and exhaust the water supply, to the detriment of white stockmen, whose herds are taxed by the respective counties in which they